

CHAPTER 1.3.7.

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

Proposed definitions (to be located in Chapter 1.1.1)

Animal identification means the identification and registration of an animal individually or collectively by its *epidemiological unit* or group. Methods of animal identification include, **but are not limited to**, tag, brand, tattoo, transponder (microchip), collar, ring and mark. **

Comments:

- 1) Identification methods can include retinal scanning, DNA typing, and other modern methods. We should not inadvertently preclude the use of future technologies.
- 2) ** With the second sentence on methods, one might interpret this definition as meaning that every animal within a lot must have some type of individual identification, but that if moved as a group, they could be referenced collectively with only one number or unit. The United States suggest adding text to indicate that the group/lot identification was accompanied by appropriate documentation (hard copy or electronic) that includes the number of animals in the group/lot, date assembled, and identification of establishments/owners and that individual animals within the group may not necessarily be individually identified.

Animal identification system means the inclusion and linking of components such as *identification of establishments/owners*, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s) and records with *animal identification*.

~~*Animal traceability* means the ability to follow an animal during specified stage(s) of its life.~~

The United States suggests the following definition for *animal traceability*:

Animal traceability: means both the ability to follow an individual animal during specified stage/s of its life and the ability to identify all cohort animals during the same pre-harvest time period.

Individual identification means the identification of each animal using a unique **individual** identifier.

Comment: Without inserting the word “individual” as suggested, one could interpret that the same unique identifier could be used on all animals within a group, such as a unique brand, which would not be a unique individual identifier.

Group identification means the identification of a group of animals ~~using~~ **by assigning** a unique group identifier.

Register means the system by which animal identification and traceability information is securely stored and appropriately accessed by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 1.3.7.1.

General principles

1. There is a critical relationship between *animal identification* and the traceability of animals and *products of animal origin*.
2. *Animal traceability* and traceability of *products of animal origin* should have the capability to be linked ~~to food product traceability in order~~ to maintain traceability throughout the food chain.

Comment: suggest removing the phrase we indicate with a “strike-through” because it is redundant

3. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* are ~~important~~ tools **for that may be useful when** addressing animal health (including zoonoses) and food safety, and may significantly improve the effectiveness of the management of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents, vaccination programmes, herd/flock husbandry, *zoning/compartimentalisation*, surveillance, early response and notification systems, animal movement controls and assurances of safety in trade. **Information about cohort exposure to disease or other contaminants is an important component of *animal traceability*.**
4. The objective(s) of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* for a particular country, *zone* or compartment, and the approach used, should be clearly defined, following an assessment of the risks to be addressed, and a consideration of the factors listed below. They should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Administration* and relevant sector(s)/stakeholders prior to implementation, and periodically reviewed.
5. There are various factors which may determine the chosen approach. Factors such as the outcomes of the risk assessment, the animal health situation (including zoonoses), animal population parameters (such as species and breeds, numbers and distribution), types of production, animal movement patterns, available technologies, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis and other economic considerations, and cultural aspects, should be taken into account when designing the approach. Whatever approach is used, it should comply with relevant OIE standards to ensure that the defined objectives are able to be achieved**d**.

6. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Administration*.
7. The *Veterinary Administration*, in consultation with relevant governmental agencies and the private sector, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* in the country. In order to facilitate compatibility and consistency, relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account. This legal framework should include elements such as the objectives, scope, organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and registration, obligation of the parties, confidentiality, accessibility issues and the efficient exchange of information.